Security and safety of the maritime assets of the country

1893. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the steps taken to enhance the security and safety of the maritime assets of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Indian Navy and Coast Guard carry out regular surveillance and patrol to protect the interests of the country. In this regard, special operations in coordination with other Central and State Government agencies are also carried out. The hardware equipment and resources of the Navy and the Coast Guard are reviewed and updated from time to time.

Enquiry into the fall off of the door of HAL's helicopter

1894. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a door of the HAL's light helicopter fell off when the helicopter was performing manoeuvre recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the inquiry conducted by Government into the incident?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incident occurred during a development flight and has been ascribed to human error. Internal investigative procedures of HAL and progressive changes before production commences would take care of the problem. An inquiry by Governmen is not considered necessary.

Opening of Mahila Sainik Schools in Gujarat

1895. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal sent by Government of Gujarat for opening of Mahila Sainik Schools in the State is under conisderation of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when such schools will be started. the details thereof with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In a letter addressed to the Union Home Minister, Minister of State for Education, Government of Gujarat, has suggested that institutions on the lines of a Sainik School be set up to impart education with necessary training for girls to facilitate their entry into the Defence Forces. It has also been suggested to permit entry of girls into the National Defence Academy (NDA).

(b) and (c) At present, setting up of such institutions for girls and permitting their entry into NDA is not being contemplated.

Demand for raising Gujarat Regiment

1896. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand of Gujarat for raising a force known as Gujarat Regiment;

(b) if so. the details thereof, and

(c) if not. the reason therefor?